



University of Connecticut Health Center
Office of the Vice President for Health Affairs

TESTIMONY

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Environment Committee

March 1, 2010

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D.

Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine

Albert & Wilda Van Dusen
Chair in Academic Medicine

Distinguished Professor of
Orthopaedic Surgery and
Chemical, Materials and
Biomolecular Engineering

**HB 5126 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER**

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 5126 AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CHEMICAL INNOVATIONS INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF
CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER.**

The UConn Health Center (UCHC) is gratified that the General Assembly, other state agencies, non profits , industry experts and business are turning to the UCHC to establish a Chemical Innovations Institute. With our expert staff, we expect the provisions of the bill can be attained and that with the creation of the Institute, the State will be in a position to effectively review chemical usage, worker exposures and alternatives to toxics in the workplace and the consumer market. We look forward to being a useful resource to industry in this effort.

As all other state agencies, the UCHC is facing financial challenges. There are no resources that could be assigned or reassigned to this mandate and it would require new and ongoing funding to establish and maintain this initiative. In order to implement the mandates in the bill, it will require additional resources, resources the UCHC does not have. It is essential that the language as drafted in Section 1 (h) and (i) be included in any bill going forward. The language reads:

(h) The board shall seek federal funds for the administration of the institute. In addition, The University of Connecticut Health Center may seek funding for the institute from nongovernmental foundations, private citizens, corporations and other government entities. In the event that the board determines that adequate funds exist, the institute may establish technical assistance grants to businesses and nonprofit organizations to assist such businesses and nonprofit organizations in transitioning to the use of safer chemical alternatives.

(i) The University of Connecticut Health Center shall not be required to undertake any duty of the institute if federal, state and private funds, in the aggregate, are insufficient to pay for the initial and ongoing expenses of the institute.

We request that this language remain intact throughout the process. I understand that our staff will work to secure federal and other funding sources to meet the requirements of the bill, should it become law.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Health Center Administration
263 Farmington Avenue
Farmington, Connecticut 06030-3800

Telephone: (860) 679-2594
Facsimile: (860) 679-1255
Cell: (860) 888-2902
email: Laurencin@uchc.edu

Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and thank you for your attention.